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Prof. Joseph Henry.

JUDGE PITMAN'S
ADDRESS
TO
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF
BROWN UNIVERSITY,
DELIVERED IN PROVIDENCE,
ON THEIR FIRST ANNIVERSARY,
SEPTEMBER 5, 1843.

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BY JOHN PITMAN.

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A D D R E S S.

ALUMNI OF BROWN UNIVERSITY :

IT is good for us to be here. Laying aside the cares of business, the anxieties of professional life, the strife for power and office, and those rivalries and contentions which embitter so much of the brief period of our fleeting lives, it will be good for us, once in every year, to come up to our *Alma Mater*, with sentiments of love and gratitude, to renew the recollections of our better days, and to cultivate that sympathy for each other that will bind us in the bond of brotherhood, and encourage us in the pursuit of "whatsoever things are lovely and of good report."

This is a holy work :—the chain of love which binds man to man, binds him also to his Creator. "He that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen," "how," asks the beloved disciple, "how can he love God whom he hath not seen."

We come hither to honor our *Alma Mater*, and to acknowledge the honor we have received from her. We come to improve our heads and our hearts by literary and social communion. Some of us have come, after a long sojourn, and a weary pilgrimage, in a land of good and evil, with much

to tell our younger brethren of the perils of the way to wealth, and usefulness, and honor, of much to warn, and of much to encourage. A few of us, who are left, come from another century, and whilst we rejoice in the prosperity of our *Alma Mater*, and delight to view the new halls which have arisen, and become the abodes of science and literature, we look with peculiar emotions upon that *one* which once stood alone, whose walls bring back such vivid recollections of our collegiate hours.

On this first anniversary of our Association, it seemed to me most proper that I should enter somewhat into the history of the College, and speak of some of the early graduates. Happy should I be, could I have had time and materials for a more satisfactory notice of the Alumni than it is in my power to give. For any failure, in this respect, I feel that I should have had no right to offer you an apology, if, after an expression of unfeigned reluctance to undertake the task I am now endeavoring to perform, it had not been urged upon me as a matter of duty and conscience. Such therefore as I have I freely give unto you, and only regret that it is not more worthy your acceptance.

In July, 1763, there landed at Newport, Rhode-Island, a young gentleman whose appearance, deportment, and address, were peculiarly fitted to gain respect, esteem, and affection. He was a native of New-Jersey, recently a graduate at Princeton. He came on an errand of science and religion. A preacher of the gospel, of the denomination called Baptists, he had found from happy experience that

learning and piety were not incompatible with each other, and he was desirous, with others of his denomination, that his brethren might be blessed with a learned ministry. He came hither, says the Rev. Morgan Edwards, in his history of the College, "because the legislature was chiefly in the hands of the Baptists, and therefore the likeliest place to have a Baptist College established by law." This young gentleman was the Rev. James Manning. He wrote a narrative of his mission and success, from which the following extract may not be uninteresting.

"In the month of July, 1763, we arrived at Newport, and made a motion to several gentlemen of the Baptist denomination, whereof Col. *Gardner*, the deputy Governor, was one, relative to a seminary of polite literature, subject to the government of the Baptists. The motion was properly attended to, which brought together about fifteen gentlemen, of the same denomination, at the deputy's house, who requested that I would draw a sketch of the design, against the day following. That day came, and the same gentlemen, with other Baptists, met in the same place, when a rough draught was produced and read; the tenor of which was, that the institution was to be a Baptist one, but that as many of other denominations should be taken in as was consistent with the said design."

The narrative of Mr. Manning gives a further account of the steps which were taken to accomplish his design, and of the manner in which a Reverend gentleman, of another denomination, who agreed to draw the Charter in conformity with the original

design, attempted, by the insertion of artful provisions, to secure the government of the College to his own denomination, and, in the absence of Mr. Manning, nearly succeeded in his attempt. This was defeated by the vigilance of Daniel Jenckes, Esq., a member of the General Assembly from Providence, who also has left us his account of the matter. But I forbear to dwell on this unpleasant part of the narrative, instructive though it may be, as showing that the dangers from what has been termed *pious frauds* have not been confined to the school of the Jesuits, and how necessary it is that we should guard ourselves from the influence of that pernicious sophism, which has misled so many in Church and State, that "*it is lawful to do evil that good may come.*" Suffice it to say, that after a sufficient display of legislative and extra-legislative tactics, by friends and opponents, the Charter, which is now the Constitution of Brown University, was carried by a great majority, at the session of the legislature in February, 1764.

This Charter secured to the Baptists the government of the College; but that they sought this for their own security, and with the view of holding out greater inducements to their own denomination to educate their candidates for the ministry, and not with any view of imposing their creed upon others, is evident from the provisions of the Charter. Thus the Charter declares, "That into this liberal and catholic institution shall never be admitted any religious tests: But on the contrary all the members hereof shall forever enjoy full, free, absolute and uninterrupted liberty of conscience: And that the

places of Professors, Tutors, and all other officers, the President alone excepted, shall be free and open for all denominations of Protestants : And that youth of all religious denominations shall and may be freely admitted to the equal advantages, emoluments, and honors of the College or University ; and shall receive a like fair, generous, and equal treatment during their residence therein, they conducting themselves peaceably, and conforming to the laws and statutes thereof. And that the public teaching shall in general, respect the sciences ; and that the sectarian differences of opinion shall not make any part of the public and classical instruction. Although all religious controversies may be studied freely, examined and explained, by the President, Professors and Tutors, in a personal, separate and distinct manner, to the youth of any or each denomination. And above all, a constant regard be paid to, and effectual care taken of the morals of the College.”

In conformity with this, the laws of the University, which regulate the attendance on devotional exercises, thus provide : “ The right of Christians of every denomination, to enjoy without molestation their religious sentiments, is fully allowed ; nevertheless, as the public observance of the Sabbath is a moral duty, at the beginning of each term, every student shall designate to the President, or other officer named by him, some place of public worship which he chooses to attend, and he shall attend such place of worship on the forenoon and afternoon of every first day of the week.”

By the Charter, the Corporation for the regula-

tion and government of the University, consists of two branches : “ that of the Trustees and that of the Fellowship.” There are thirty-six Trustees, and twelve of the Fellowship, including the President. Of the Trustees twenty-two, by the Charter, are to be Baptists, five of the denomination called Friends, or Quakers, four Congregationalists, and five Episcopalians. Of the Fellows eight are to be Baptists, “and the rest indifferently of any or all denominations.” The President must be a Baptist. “ The instruction and immediate government of the College,” says the Charter, “ shall forever be and rest in the President and Fellows, or Fellowship.” The laws made by the Fellowship, and repeals thereof are to be laid before the Trustees, and with their approbation shall be of force and validity, but not otherwise. The Fellowship is constituted “ a learned faculty, with power to confer the learned degrees, or such other degrees of literary honor as they shall devise, upon such candidates and persons as the President and Fellows shall judge worthy of the academical honors.”

By a wise and fortunate provision in the Charter, no particular name was given to the College, but the persons therein named, who should accept of the trust, and qualify themselves as therein provided, within twelve months from the date of the Charter, and their successors, were created, in the words of the Charter, “ one body corporate and politic, in fact and name, to be known in law by the name of TRUSTEES AND FELLOWS OF THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN THE ENGLISH COLONY OF RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS IN NEW-

ENGLAND, IN AMERICA ; the 'Trustees and Fellows, at any time hereafter giving such more particular name to the College, in honor of the greatest and most distinguished benefactor, or otherwise, as they shall think proper."

Mr. Edwards, who was one of the Fellowship from 1764, to 1789, says : " This Charter lay dormant for about two years, except that some, nominated in it, did qualify themselves in order to become a Corporation, and did open a subscription among themselves, and choose Rev. James Manning to be President. But in September, 1766, the tuition part of it was begun at Warren, by said President, who soon had eight or twelve scholars, which brought on the first commencement, September 7th, 1769. Before this, in 1767, the Rev. *Morgan Edwards*, of Philadelphia, set out for Europe to solicit money toward the paying the salary of the President, and Assistant, for hitherto we had no fund, and succeeded pretty well, considering how angry the mother country was with the colonies for opposing the Stamp Act. Afterwards the Rev. *Hezekiah Smith*, and others, gathered small sums, in America, for the same purpose, but, after all, the endowment is so scanty that the College is in arrears to the President to this day, who has suffered considerably by it."

Mr. Edwards continues : " To the year 1769, this seminary was for the most part friendless and moneyless, and therefore forlorn, inasmuch that a College edifice was hardly thought of. But Mr. Edwards, making frequent remittances from England, some began to hope, and many to fear that the in-

stitution would come to something and stand. Then a building and the place of it were talked of, which opened a new scene of troubles and contentions that had well nigh ruined all."

Dr. Manning, in the close of the year 1763, became pastor of the Baptist Church in Warren. The vote, of the Corporation, appointing him President of the College, in September, 1765, as the College had as yet no location, was so drawn that he was empowered to act "*at Warren or elsewhere.*"

Professor Goddard, in his excellent memoir of Dr. Manning, says, that "soon after his ordination over the Church in Warren, he opened a Latin school in that town." He therefore had already prepared the way for the College before its Charter was granted, and some of those whom he instructed were probably fitted to enter the College when he was elected President, in 1765. From this time to September 1769, when the first Commencement was holden at Warren, was four years, the time required to complete the collegiate course. So that the first graduating class most probably commenced their collegiate course in September 1765, instead of September 1766, as stated by Mr. Edwards. And this is confirmed by the fact that the late Hon. David Howell, a graduate of Princeton, was appointed the first tutor in the College in 1766. In the first year of the College, with only the freshman class, President Manning had no need of an assistant, but in the second year an assistant became necessary, and he could not have procured a more able one from the Alumni of his own Alma Mater.

The first graduating class, in 1769, were seven in number. Among them was *James Mitchell Varnum*, who has been celebrated for his eloquence.* Another of his class, *Charles Thompson*, received its highest honors. He was the immediate successor of Dr. Manning, in the pastoral care of the Warren Church, and for several years was settled as a Baptist Minister in Swanzey, Massachusetts, where he opened a classical school. Two more of this class were Baptist Ministers, and successful instructors of youth: Dr. *William Rogers*, for several years a professor of Oratory and Belles Lettres in the University of Pennsylvania, and the Rev. *William Williams*, who was elected to the Fellowship in 1789, and for many years was pastor of the Baptist Church, in Wrentham, Massachusetts. My studies, preparatory for College, were begun in the school of Mr. Thompson, and ended in the school of Mr. Williams. An aged alumnus, now present,† has informed me that Dr. William Rogers stated to him that he was the first scholar admitted to the College, and, for one day after his admission, was the only scholar in College.

“The first Commencement, (says Mr. Edwards,) was celebrated at Warren, September 7th, 1769, whereat was a great concourse of people, who openly professed their admiration of the performances of the young gentlemen, and the regularity and decorum of the whole business of the day.”‡

* See the Memoir of James Mitchell Varnum, among the “Memoirs of the Rhode Island Bar,” published in 1842, by Wilkins Updike, Esq.

† Mr. William Wilkinson.

‡ For a particular account of this, the first Commencement, see Appendix, Note A.

We can readily imagine how the beautiful and benevolent face of President Manning was radiant with smiles on this occasion ; with what joy he beheld the first fruits of his anxieties, and labors, and prayers ; with what glowing eloquence he poured forth, at the throne of grace, the pious effusions of a grateful heart, invoking the blessing of God upon the future efforts of the friends of the infant institution, and filling every heart with emotion, if not every eye with tears, as, with the affection of a friend, and the solicitude of a father, he commended to the care of Heaven, those who were about to depart from him, and, at a period of no ordinary moment, to enter a world of temptation and trial.

An important question remained to be settled. Our *Alma Mater* had as yet no local habitation. It was deemed of so much importance to that part of the State where it might be located, that the counties of Providence, Newport, and Kent, contended with Bristol for the benefit and the honor. This created the contention to which Mr. Edwards referred.—“Warren, he says, was at first agreed on as a proper situation, where a small wing was to be erected in the spring of 1770, and about £800 raised towards effecting it. But soon afterwards, some who were unwilling it should be there, and some who were unwilling it should be any where, did so far agree as to lay aside the said location, and propose that the county which should raise the most money should have the College.”

In this contest, Providence obtained the prize. After a full hearing given to the competitors, the

Corporation, on the 7th of February, 1770, decided, by a vote of twenty-one to fourteen,* “that the edifice be built in the town of Providence, and there be continued forever.” This decision, the friends of the College have had no reason to regret.

The Corporation appointed a Committee to request President Manning to remain in the Presidency, and remove, with the College, to Providence, and to request the consent of his church and congregation to his removal. This was attended with some difficulty. Dr. Manning was much attached to his people, and proposed to resign the Presidency rather than leave them. His most influential friends succeeded in persuading him that this was not the path of duty, and, in May, 1770, he removed with the under-graduates to Providence.

Mr. Edwards says: “By the adventurous and resolute spirit of the *Browns*, and some other men of Providence, the edifice was begun in May, 1770, and roofed by the fall of that year. The next summer it [was so far finished as to be fit for the reception of scholars.”

In the “Annals of Providence,” recently published by Judge Staples, it is said: The Corporation “broke ground for the building, now known as University Hall, on the 26th day of March, 1770, and the corner stone of that building was laid by *John Brown*, on the 14th day of May following.”†

* Staples’ Annals of Providence, page 528.

†See Judge Staples’ Annals of Providence, where will also be found the history of the College, by Rev. Morgan Edwards, and the narrative of Dr. Manning, and of Daniel Jenckes, Esq.—Pages 518, 530.

Mr. John Brown gave £300 towards the erection of University Hall, and subscribed liberally towards a Library for the College. He died Sept. 20, 1803, in his 68th year.

We quote again from Morgan Edwards, whose zeal and early efforts in behalf of the College, recommend him to our notice. After minutely describing, with much satisfaction, the building since named University Hall, he shows us that he had a taste for the beautiful in nature, and felt how much it is in unison with literature. He says: "The situation of the College is remarkably airy, healthful and pleasant, being the summit of a hill pretty easy of ascent, and commanding a prospect of the town of Providence *below*, of the Narragansett Bay, and the islands, and of an extensive country, variegated with hills and dales, woods and plains, &c. *Surely, this spot was made for a seat of the Muses.*"

The College no longer looks *down* upon the town, which is pressing it on every side ; but though some of the prospect may have been thus obstructed, yet much of it remains, and the increase of beautiful buildings, and the taste which has been displayed in laying out and ornamenting the grounds, will, it is to be hoped, retain the *Muses* in this their chosen seat.

In 1770, the first Commencement, *at Providence*,* was holden in the meeting house of the Rev. Joseph Snow, where the subsequent Commencements were holden, until the completion of the house in which we are now assembled.† *Theodore Foster* graduated in the class of 1780. He represented the State of Rhode Island, for thirteen years, in the Senate of the United States, and left many fruits of antiquarian research connected with Rhode-Island history.

* See Appendix, Note B.

† The First Baptist Meeting House.

In the class of 1771, graduated *Thomas Arnold*, of Providence, with the first honors of his class ;* he was elected to the Fellowship in 1774, and Secretary of the Corporation in 1776. He possessed a strong mind, well adapted to the profession of the law, to which he for sometime devoted himself. He was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, which office he declined. He became afterwards a distinguished member of the Society of Friends.

In the class of 1771 was also *Samuel Ward*, son of Governor Ward, of Rhode-Island. He graduated at the early age of fifteen, and, at the age of eighteen, commanded a company, under Arnold, in the celebrated march, through the wilderness of Maine, to Quebec. He served with reputation in the army of the United States, during the war of the Revolution, in which he rose to the rank of Lieut. Colonel. He was distinguished for his scholarship as well as for his military talents and services.

In the class of 1773, graduated *Solomon Drown*. He was elected to the Fellowship in 1783, and a professor of *Materia Medica* and Botany in 1811. Dr. Drown's favorite science was Botany, connected with Medicine. He also delighted in Greek literature. The oration which he delivered, in this house, in February, 1824, at the age of seventy-one, in behalf of the Greeks, aroused in himself all the enthusiasm of youth.†

The Commencement of 1774, was distinguished

* See Appendix, Note C, for an account of this Commencement.

† See *Providence American*, February 20—24, 1824

by the eloquence of *Barnabas Binney*, who received the first honors of his class. One of the Alumni,* now among us, who was present at this Commencement, in a communication to me says: "the valedictory oration, by Barnabas Binney, was a splendid production. After the usual addresses, it went fully into the politics of that eventful period, and was listened to with more profound attention than any other that the writer of this ever heard." This oration was so much approved, that it was immediately published. Mr. Binney became a distinguished physician of Philadelphia.

This Commencement was also distinguished by the presence of Governor Wanton, of Newport in a full court dress. His wig was of formidable dimensions, his hat carried under his arm, and a person in attendance held an umbrella over his head, to the great astonishment of the burghers of Providence, says my informant, who was himself blessed and astonished with the sight. But alas! *Sic transit gloria mundi*! Governor Wanton was more ready to wear a wig of courtly cut than to adopt the whiggism then current in Rhode-Island, and he was superseded, by a resolution of the General Assembly, in May 1775.

In the class of 1774 was also *John Dorrance*, who was appointed Tutor in that year, the late Judge Dorrance of Providence.† In this class also was *Dwight Foster*, afterwards a Senator in Congress

* Mr. Wilkinson.

†For an account of the Commencements of 1772, 1773, and 1774, see Appendix, Note D.

from Massachusetts, the brother of Theodore Foster.

In 1774, fifteen entered the freshman class ; eight of them were from the Latin school in Providence under the tuition of the Rev. *Ebenezer David*, of the class of 1772, "one of the best instructors," says my informant, who was one of the eight, "I have ever known,"

In 1775, the graduating class consisted of ten, but there was no Commencement. The state of the public mind at this period was such that it was supposed but little attention would be given to literary performances. In the class of '75 was *Pardon Bowen*, who became one of the most distinguished and beloved physicians of Providence, and President of the Medical Society of Rhode-Island. He was also one of the Trustees of the College.

In this class was also *Robert Rogers*, who was elected to the Fellowship in 1788, and attended nearly every Commencement until his death in 1835. He kept for many years a classical school in Newport, one of the nurseries of the College.

The Commencement was holden, for the first time in this house, in September 1776. In the class of '76 was *Daniel Gano*, second son of the Rev. John Gano, and elder brother of the Rev. Stephen Gano, who was so long a preacher in this house. He is believed to be the oldest alumnus living. *John Preston Mann*, late a highly respectable physician of Newport, was in this class.

In December 1776, the British took possession of the island of Rhode-Island, and the students of the College were immediately dismissed. The seat

of the *Muses* became the habitation of *Mars*. The Militia, summoned to defend the State, occupied the College edifice, which was afterwards used by the French army as an hospital.

In 1777, degrees were conferred upon the senior class, but there was no Commencement. No studies were pursued in College from the close of '76 until September 1782. Many of the young men who belonged to the College when the students were dismissed, in '76, entered the army ; some went to other Colleges, and those who received degrees here did so at irregular periods, after an interval of several years.

The story of the class of fifteen, which entered in 1774, shows how sadly the times were out of joint in reference to College studies, and College honors. In December, 1776, they were juniors ; four entered Yale, and three at Harvard, and there received degrees ; four never graduated any where ; and four graduated here, viz : *John Morley Greene*, *Samuel Snow*, *Levi Wheaton*, and *William Wilkinson*.—Greene, Snow and Wilkinson, entered the army in 1777 ; Greene, Snow and Wheaton, received their degrees in 1782, and Wilkinson, in 1783. Of this class two only survive : Dr. *Levi Wheaton*, and Mr. *William Wilkinson*, of Providence. Dr. Wheaton is one of the Trustees of the University, and, in 1815, was appointed Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine. Dr. Wheaton has long been distinguished for his learning and skill as a physician, and for his taste and varied attainments in literature. Mr. Wilkinson commenced a Latin School, in

Providence, in 1783, which he continued until 1793, and fitted for College, during that period, many of the most distinguished Alumni. He was appointed Librarian of the College in 1785. At the advanced age of eighty-three, he enjoys good health, and a vivid and minute recollection of events and persons connected with the early annals of the College, and of those glorious days, of American history, which were so full of peril and patriotism.

The catalogue of the Alumni of the University exhibits an hiatus from 1777 to 1782, which has been already explained; and another from 1783, to 1786, which is thus explained: In September, 1782, a freshman class entered, the old stock of students became exhausted in 1783, and it was not until 1786 that the class which entered in 1782, were qualified to graduate. From 1786, there has been a regular uninterrupted succession of graduates.

The year 1786 is distinguished, in the annals of the College, by the choice of President Manning to represent Rhode Island in the Congress of the United States. His appointment, which was spontaneously and unanimously conferred upon him by the General Assembly, upon his casual appearance among them, was as honorable to themselves as to him. The story of the appointment is told by Dr. Robbins, in a letter to Mr. Goddard, upon the authority of Commodore Hopkins, who nominated him. I take the liberty to recite it from the memoir to which I have referred.

“Though he had (says Dr. Robbins) other merits and ample for this appointment of delegate, I

have no doubt, the dignity and grace for which he was so remarkable, smoothed the way to it. It took place in this wise: There was a vacancy in the delegation, and the General Assembly, who were to fill it, were sitting in Providence. No one in particular had been proposed or talked of. One afternoon, Dr. Manning went to the State House to look in upon the Assembly and see what was doing. His motive was curiosity merely. On his appearance there, he was introduced on the floor, and accommodated with a seat. Shortly after, Commodore Hopkins, who was then a member, rose and nominated President Manning as a delegate to Congress, and thereupon he was appointed, and, according to my recollection, unanimously. I recollect to have heard Commodore Hopkins say, (it was at the house of his brother, Governor Hopkins, where I shortly after met with him,) that the idea never entered his head till he saw the President enter, and take his seat on the floor of the Assembly; and that the thought immediately struck him, that he would make a very fit member for that august body, the continental congress."

This was one of those happy thoughts which needed no "sober second thought" to improve. The State of Rhode-Island, has certainly never been represented in Congress with more dignity, talent and patriotism.

Dr. Manning obtained leave of absence from his collegiate duties, to attend Congress, from March, till September. The Rev. Perez Fobes, a Congre-

gational clergyman, of Raynham, Massachusetts, was appointed Vice-President, during this period.

These were stirring times. Matters of deep interest to the peace and prosperity of the United States, agitated the country. The defects of the Confederation had fully appeared, but their remedy was not so apparent to all. In the Congress of 1786, Dr. Manning could not fail to learn the full bearing of those great questions which led to a more perfect union of the States; and that he duly appreciated them is evident from the great interest which he felt, and the efforts which he made to secure the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

The graduating class of 1786, consisted of fifteen. Among them was *Nicholas Brown*, who entered, in 1782, when the College again began to live; and his munificence has given it that life and being which has made it such an honor to his memory, and by which he has so well deserved that it should bear his name.

In this class was also *Benjamin Woods*, a native of New-England, a young man of distinguished talents, who removed to North-Carolina, and soon became Attorney General of the State. His career of usefulness was short; he died in the prime of his days, and in the midst of his honors.

The class of 1787, is distinguished by the names of *Samuel Eddy*, and *Jonathan Maxcy*;—the class of 1788,* by the name of *James Burrill*;—the class of 1789, by the name of *James Fenner*;†—the class

* Amos Maine Atwell, of Providence, had the first honors of the class of 1788.

† James Fenner had the first honors of his class.

of 1790, by the name of *Asa Messer* ;—and the class of 1791, by the names of *William Hunter*, and *Jonathan Russell*. These names are familiar, as household words, to the Alumni of Brown University.—They need no illumination from any reflected light which it would be in my power to throw upon them on this occasion. Biographical notices of them, and others, have been given by Mr. Goddard, to use his own words, “by way of appendix to the life of their venerated preceptor.”

With the class of 1791, concludes the *first era* in the history of our *Alma Mater*, the presidency of *Dr. Manning*. He died July 24, 1791, in the fifty-third year of his age. In his death the College, the church and the community suffered a loss which was deeply felt and lamented. And well might the death of such a man have been lamented ! Few men of such varied usefulness, combining such excellencies of person, mind and heart, such beauty, dignity and grace, learning, eloquence, benevolence and piety, few such men appear, in this world of imperfection, to delight and bless mankind. He was, *in truth*, the *founder* of our *Alma Mater*, and well may the savor of such virtues descend from generation to generation. Well may we understand how such a character would impress itself upon the hearts of his pupils, and give to one so benevolent and liberal as our departed patron, a desire to build up an institution founded by a master so well beloved.—The names of *Manning* and *Brown* are thus associated, and will be held in remembrance and honor by generations to come who may repair to this foun-

tain of literature and science. Such is the fruit of that goodness which lives *after death*, and is not "*interred with our bones!*"

The class of 1791, had completed their studies at the death of President Manning, but had not graduated. They received their collegiate honors amidst the gloom occasioned by his so recent death. The Honorable *David Howell*, the first tutor in the College, and an active professor from 1769 to December 1776, which places he filled with much reputation to himself and the College, presided, at the request of the Corporation, at the Commencement of 1791. Jonathan Russell delivered the valedictory oration. Those who have heard him, or been familiar with his composition, will readily believe that on this occasion there was no want of eloquence. I have recently seen an account of this Commencement, in the Boston "*Columbian Centinel*," of September 14th, 1791; and as I do not find that this paper was in the habit of noticing our performances, in those days, I infer that in point of merit they must have been deemed extraordinary, at least for *Rhode-Island*. The account is introduced under the head of "*Rhode-Island—Providence, September 10th,*" and is as follows :*

"Last Wednesday was celebrated in this town, the Anniversary Commencement of Rhode-Island College. The procession, at half past 10 o'clock A. M.

* Since this discourse was delivered, the writer has discovered that this account in the *Centinel*, was abridged from the account of the Commencement, in the *Providence Gazette*. For an account of the order of exercises, and the portions omitted in the *Centinel*, see Appendix.

moved in the usual order (preceded by the Independent Artillery Company, commanded by Col. Tillinghast, in uniform,) from the College Hall to the Baptist meeting-house, where, after an introductory prayer by the Rev. Doctor Stillman, the exercises of the day began, which, being finished, the degree of Bachelor in the Arts was conferred on the following young gentlemen, viz: (mentioning their names) and the degree of Master in the Arts on the following young gentlemen, viz; Mr. Tutor Doggett, Amos Maine Atwell, William Barton, Jabez Bowen, James Burrill, Samuel Eddy, George Jackson, Harding Harris, Eli King, Benjamin Whitman, and Jonas Reed."

"Josias Lyndon Arnold, an Alumnus of Dartmouth College, was admitted to the degree of A. M. also Apollos Leonard Esq., Samuel Leonard, Esq. of Taunton, and Joseph Holbrook."

"The degree of Master of Arts was also conferred on the Sieur Joseph De Letombe, Consul of France, resident in Boston."

"The President then gave a charge to the Bachelors of Arts."

"Then followed the valedictory oration by Jonathan Russell."

"A prayer by the Rev. Dr. Stillman concluded."

"The exercises of the day were enlivened and enriched by some excellent pieces of music performed by the *Boston Band*,* which the young gentlemen who graduated had procured for this occasion."

* In Italics in the *Centinel*.

“The Hon. David Howell, Esq. was appointed President for the day, and did himself honor by the judicious manner in which he executed that important trust.”

“The young gentlemen performed their several parts to the universal applause of crowded audiences in both parts of the day. And although it was wet and rather disagreeable weather, it did not prevent a brilliant assemblage of the fair daughters of *America* from enlivening, by their presence, the exercises of the day. The order and decorum on this occasion were remarkable.”

“The Rev. Jonathan Maxcy was elected Professor of Divinity in the College.”*

To the honors of this class have been added the appointments of Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Russell, as Ministers of the United States to foreign courts.

I cannot close this period in our College history without some notice of those who were associated with Dr. Manning in the work of instruction.

The “*Assistant*,” spoken of by Morgan Edwards, in 1767, was the late Judge *Howell*, who was appointed Tutor in 1766, and a Professor in 1769, as already mentioned. He was a most accurate and excellent instructor. He claimed, says Mr. Wilkinson, the honor of having instructed the Rev. Ebenezer David, of whose excellence, as a Latin teacher, Mr. Wilkinson is the witness. Dr. Howell found the walls of a College too circumscribed for his

* At this Commencement, Mr. Simeon Doggett, of the class of 1788, and then a Tutor in the College, and a candidate for the Master's degree, delivered “An Oration on the death of Rev. President Manning.”

genius, and in after life was distinguished as a member of Congress, under the Confederation, and a Judge of the Supreme Court of Rhode-Island. At the age of forty, as he himself informed me, he began the *practice* and the study of the law, in which he rose to the first eminence at the Rhode-Island bar.

In 1812, he was appointed District Judge of the United States, for the Rhode-Island District, in which office he continued till his death, July 29th, 1824, in his seventy-eighth year. Some of the most distinguished members of the Rhode-Island bar, were educated in his office. I have known many men of the first distinction, in point of talent, in various parts of the United States, but I have met with none whose conversation was more entertaining and instructive, than Judge Howell's, in his palmy days.

Mr. *Joseph Brown* of Providence was Professor of Natural Philosophy, from 1784 till his death, in December, 1785. He was brother of *John Brown*, who laid the corner stone of University Hall, and uncle of *Nicholas Brown*, whose munificence gave to the College the name of Brown University. Mr. Joseph Brown was distinguished for his genius for mechanics, and for his acquirements in mathematics and philosophy.

Dr. *Benjamin Waterhouse*, was appointed a Professor of Natural History, 1784. He was born in Newport, Rhode-Island, and is still living, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He has given some interesting recollections of President Manning, and is

noticed by Mr. Goddard in a note to his memoir.—
He has been styled “the *American Jenner*.”

Dr. *Benjamin West* was appointed Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, in 1786, and of Mathematics and of Natural Philosophy, in 1798. He was an excellent instructor to those who were desirous of learning, and especially to those in whom he discovered a taste for mathematics. Dr. West published a tract upon the transit of Venus, in 1769.

The Rev. *Perez Fobes*, LL. D., was a Professor of Natural Philosophy from 1786 to 1798.

Mr. *John Dorrance*, the late Judge Dorrance of Providence, was Tutor in 1774 '5.

Mr. *Asher Robbins*, a graduate of Yale, in 1782, was appointed a Tutor in the College, in 1783, and continued until 1790. The eminence which this gentleman attained, in subsequent life, at the Rhode-Island bar, and in the Senate of the United States, and his high reputation for scholarship, are sufficient evidence, had we no other, that it was most fortunate for the College that his services as an instructor were secured at this early period. Dr. Robbins is yet living, and still enjoys all the pleasures of literature.

Robert Scott, a graduate of Edinburgh, was Tutor in 1785 '6. He was a learned man, but profoundly ignorant of the world.

Abel Flint, a graduate of Yale, was Tutor from 1786 to '90.

Jonathan Maxcy, was Tutor from 1787 to '91.

Josias Lyndon Arnold, a graduate of Dartmouth, was Tutor from 1790 to '92. He was a good instruc-

tor, but more celebrated in his time for his poetical talent. A volume of his poems, with a prefatory notice of his life, by his friend and brother in law, the late Hon. James Burrill, was published, after his death, in 1797.

Mr., now the Rev. Simeon Doggett, of the class of 1788, was appointed Tutor during the last year of the presidency of Dr. Manning. He continued in this office until 1796, when he resigned and opened an Academy in Taunton, Mass., where he taught with much success.

The first Chancellor of the College, was the Hon. *Stephen Hopkins*, who was chosen in 1764. He was one of the signers of the declaration of American Independence, a man of talents and learning, and distinguished in Congress, and in the political annals of Rhode-Island. He died in 1785, aged 79.

The Hon. *Jabez Bowen* was Chancellor from 1785, till his death in 1815. He was a graduate of Yale College, was chosen a Fellow of Rhode-Island College, in 1768, and was Lieutenant-Governor of the State from May, 1778, until May, 1786, with the exception of one year. He was one of the leaders, among the whigs of Rhode-Island, in 1776.

After the death of Dr. Manning no President of the College was chosen until September, 1792. In September, 1791, the Rev. *Jonathan Maxcy*, was appointed a Professor of theology. This professorship lasted but for one year, and it has been questioned whether such a professorship is consistent with the College charter. It was probably devised as

a temporary expedient, as a probation for the presidency, for after the election of Mr. Maxcy to the presidency, it was silently abolished.

The Hon. David Howell, at the request of the Corporation, presided at the Commencement of 1792, immediately after which Mr. Maxcy was chosen President.

Dr. Maxcy was a most acceptable President. He did not possess such a commanding person as Dr. Manning, but he was a man of great dignity and grace in his manner and deportment, and his countenance was full of intellectual beauty. His musical voice, graceful action, and harmonious periods will not soon be forgotten by those of us who belong to that era of the College which is connected with his presidency.

To the period of the *interregnum*, belongs the class of 1792. In this class was the late *Benjamin Hazard*, of Newport. He was distinguished at the Rhode-Island bar, and for thirty-one successive years, represented the town of Newport in the General Assembly of Rhode-Island ; his ability, tact and long experience, gave him a great influence in that body.

In the class of 1793, was *Paul Allen*, of Providence, of poetical memory, and of considerable celebrity in his day as a man of literature. In this class was *Wilkes Wood*, now one of the Fellowship, and a Judge of Probate for the County of Plymouth, Massachusetts.*

* The Hon, Wilkes Wood was present at the Commencement on the day after the address, apparently in as good health as usual. He died October 1st., 1843, in the 74th year of his age.

The class of 1794 presents us with the names of *Samuel Willard Bridgham*, and *Nathaniel Searle*; the latter, well remembered at the Rhode-Island bar for his rapid eloquence, ready wit, and legal acuteness; the former for that suavity and kindness which won all hearts, and for that learning, perseverance and integrity which secured him the confidence of his clients, and of the community. Mr. Bridgham was chosen Chancellor of the Corporation in 1828, upon the resignation of the late Bishop *Griswold*. He was the first Mayor of the City of Providence, to which office he was annually elected until his death.

In the class of 1795 was *Samuel Greene Arnold*, long a highly respectable merchant of Providence, and a Trustee of the University; *William Baylies*, a distinguished lawyer and member of Congress from Massachusetts; and *Ezekiel Whitman*, a member of Congress from Maine, and now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of that State.

The names of *Tristram Burges* and *John Holmes* distinguish the class of 1796; the last was formerly a Senator in Congress from the state of Maine, and at one time a conspicuous New-England politician; he has very recently deceased; the former still lives, and reposes upon his laurels won by his eloquence in College halls, and in many a well contested field of forensic and Congressional debate.

To the class of 1796, also belonged *Asa Aldis*, formerly Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Vermont; the late *Abraham Blanding*, LL. D. a native of Massachusetts, but for many years a distinguished

lawyer, and eminent citizen of South-Carolina; the late Dr. *David King*, a respectable physician of Newport, and President of the Rhode-Island Medical Society; *Benjamin Shurtleff*, of Boston, M. D. at Harvard; and Benjamin-Benneau Simons, of Charleston S. C. M. D. at Edinburgh.

At the head of the class of 1797, stands *Benjamin Allen*, a native of Rhode-Island, a name familiar to some of my earliest classical recollections. We were together at the school of the Rev. Mr. Williams, of Wrentham, Mass., and entered College the same year, he as junior, myself as freshman. He received the first honors of his class, and was distinguished for his mathematical genius. At various colleges, and, at last, at his beautiful residence, on the banks of the Hudson, he spent his days, in what he most delighted, the instruction of youth.

But now I approach dangerous ground; I cannot trust myself in the selection of names where so many appear, to the eye of friendship, equally deserving of notice.

In the class of 1798, the names of *Nathaniel Bullock*, and *James Tallmadge* are distinguished; the former, as having been Lieutenant Governor of Rhode-Island; the latter, as member of Congress, and Lieutenant Governor of New York. One from the *Empire State*, the other from a State of humble dimensions, but which as well deserves to be an *Empire State* for her repeated triumphs in the cause of *liberty* and *law*, the great cause of CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOM.

I have now reached my own class, the class of

1799. Here my recollections are of a sort which belong rather to a class meeting, than a mass meeting; yet we have been distinguished by academical and senatorial honors, and the names of *Jeremiah Chaplin*, and *Nathan F. Dixon*, are worthy of public remembrance.* But here I propose to stop in my notices of distinguished graduates. I have arrived nearly at the close of the last century, and must leave something for the future orators of our association.

I am, however, sadly tempted to make a *foray* into the nineteenth century, upon the class of 1802, for there I behold:

One *Henricus Bowen*, formerly Attorney General, and now Secretary of the State of Rhode-Island:

One *Henricus Wheaton*, Minister at the Court of Prussia, and formerly at Denmark, who, when a boy, was as “sure of being found in the bookseller’s shop” as was the learned *Dr. Gill*:

And one *Johannes Whipple*, at the head of the Rhode-Island bar; if he had loved to fish in the troubled waters of democracy as much as he has delighted in the beautiful waters of Narragansett Bay, there is no knowing what he might have been—a Governor, or a Congress man, at least.

But I leave these, and others, to our future ora-

* The Rev. Jeremiah Chaplin, D. D., and LL D., was chosen President of Waterville College, in the State of Maine, in 1821, which office he held for several years, and until he resigned. He died at Hamilton, in the State of New York, 1841, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

The Hon. Nathan F. Dixon was chosen Senator in Congress by the Legislature of Rhode Island, November 3d, 1838. He died at Washington, January 29th, 1842.

tors, knowing that the names of *William Ward Bowen*, and *Milton Maxcy*, of the same class, will not be forgotten.

The class of 1802, was the largest class which had then graduated, and the last at whose Commencement Dr. Maxcy presided. In this year, he resigned the presidency of Rhode-Island College, to the great regret of the Corporation and the students. He removed to Schenectady, New York, having accepted of the presidency of Union College. In 1804, he removed to Columbia, South Carolina, having been chosen the first President of South Carolina College; here he died in 1820, aged fifty-two years. He was President of Rhode-Island College ten years, during which time the number of students much increased.

The Rev. Asa Messer was elected President of the College on the resignation of Dr. Maxcy, in September 1802. He was President twenty-four years. This was a period of much prosperity to the College.

At the accession of Dr. Messer to the presidency, the finances of the College were not in a prosperous state, but his wisdom and prudence greatly improved their condition. He was remarkable for *common sense*, which, if not the most admired, is more valuable than all *other sense*. He knew human nature well, was a good scholar and instructor, a sound reasoner, and more fond of science than literature. In his government of the College, he commanded the respect and the affection of the students; few Presidents have been more beloved. Dr. Messer was

long connected with the College; he graduated in 1790, was chosen Tutor in '91, to several Professorships in '96, and '99, and as Tutor, Professor, and President, was in office thirty-five years.

During the presidency of Dr. Messer, *Rhode-Island College* became *Brown University*. On the sixth of September, 1804, the Hon. Nicholas Brown gave to the Corporation the sum of five thousand dollars for the purpose of founding a professorship of Oratory and Belles Lettres. Mr. Brown, in his letter to the Corporation, spoke of his warm attachment to the College as the place of his education, and that of his brother,* and from the recollection that his late honored father† was among its earliest and most zealous patrons. In consequence of this donation, it was voted, at a meeting of the Corporation on the same sixth day of September, "that this College be known and called by the name of BROWN UNIVERSITY."

The presidency of Dr. Messer was also distinguished by the erection of *Hope College*, in 1821-2, at the sole expense of the Hon. Nicholas Brown, and by him presented to the Corporation. By this liberal donation the means for the accommodation of students were more than doubled. The Corporation gave this building the name of "*Hope College*," at the suggestion of the donor, whose only sister‡ bears the name of *Hope*.

**Moses Brown, Jr.*, of the class of 1790. He died February 28th, 1791, aged sixteen.

†*Nicholas Brown*, an eminent merchant and highly respected citizen of Providence. He died May 20, 1791, aged 62.

‡*Mrs. Hope Ives*, relict of the late Thomas P. Ives, Esq.

Six hundred and ninety-three students were added to the Alumni of the University during the presidency of Dr. Messer ; one hundred and twenty-seven, during the presidency of Dr. Maxcy ; and one hundred and sixty-five during the presidency of Dr. Manning. Since the presidency of Dr. Messer, there have been added to the Alumni, four hundred and eleven. The average number of graduates for each year, during the presidency of Dr. Messer, was greater than at any other period, before or since.

Dr. Messer resigned the presidency in 1826, and for the residue of his life enjoyed the repose and pleasures of the country, with the advantages of social life, upon a small farm on which was an elegant mansion, purchased by him, within the limits of the city of Providence. Here he continued to enjoy the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, and for several years, and until he declined a further election, was chosen, and faithfully served as an Alderman of the city. By a wise economy, without neglecting the duties of hospitality, he was enabled to fulfil what he justly deemed one of the most imperative duties of a husband and a father, leaving his family, at his death, amply endowed with the fruits of his many years service in the University. He died October 11, 1836, at the age of sixty-seven, after a short illness, regretted by numerous friends, and deeply mourned by an afflicted and most affectionate family.

We have arrived at the fourth period in the annals of our *Alma Mater*, the presidency of *Dr. Wayland*, which begun in 1827, and *long may it continue.*

Since the accession of Dr. Wayland, to the presidency, much successful effort has been made to improve the course of collegiate study, and to raise the standard of scholarship.* Exertions have also been made, and crowned with success, to increase the means of instruction, and to make the Library commensurate with the wants of the present and succeeding generations. The movements of the standing committee of the Corporation, were seconded, in 1831, by the friends of the University. A fund of twenty-five thousand dollars was raised by subscription, for the purchase of books for the Library, and philosophical and chemical apparatus for the University. This fund has been invested, and the interest thereof pledged to these purposes. The first dividend became due in July, 1839. Towards this fund, the Hon. Nicholas Brown subscribed the sum of ten thousand dollars; the residue was subscribed by the friends of the University in *Rhode-Island, Massachusetts and New-York*.†

The prospect of an increased Library, suggested to Mr. Brown that another library-room would be needed, and he erected, in 1833, '4, at his own expense, the beautiful building to which he gave the name of *Manning Hall*, and presented it to the University for a library-room, and a chapel. This build-

*It may not be amiss here to remark that, although the average number of graduates has not been so large, yet, it is believed, the number of yearly entrances has been larger than during any former presidency.

†See the preface to the Catalogue of the Library of Brown University, by Mr. *Charles C. Jewett*, Librarian, published in 1843, in which is a very interesting history of the Library, and in pages 12 to 16, an account of the "Library Fund," and the subscribers to the same.

ing was dedicated to these purposes, and a discourse delivered on the occasion, by President Wayland, February 4th, 1835.

During the presidency of Dr. Wayland "Rhode-Island Hall," and the new mansion for the President, have been erected. These were the fruits of the continued liberality of Mr. Brown, aided by the contributions, with one exception, of *Rhode-Island men* and *Rhode-Island women*.* Rhode-Island Hall was opened, with an address by Professor Goddard, September 4th, 1840.

The hand of modern improvement has, indeed, swept away the mansion which was so intimately connected with the recollections of Manning, and Maxcy, and Messer, but we, of the olden time, must admit that the new mansion is in much better keeping with the other architectural improvements; and we become reconciled to the removal of the old mansion when we consider how necessary it was to the perfection of that beauty which the grounds now exhibit, and which promise so much for the future.

The liberality, which has as added so much to the resources of our University, has stimulated its officers to renewed exertions, that the education to be acquired may be commensurate with such advantages. They are most desirous that Brown University may not be a tardy follower in the improvement of

*Mr. Goddard, in his address, on the opening of Rhode-Island Hall, having said "that, with one exception, all the contributors to the object are *Rhode-Island men*, either native citizens, or citizens by adoption," adds, "*Rhode-Island men*, did I say, in the language of no formal courtesy, I add, that this good work was not accomplished without aid, substantial and disinterested aid from *Rhode-Island women*."

collegiate education, but one of the pioneers in this great work.*

On the 27th of September, 1841, died the Honorable NICHOLAS BROWN, in the 73d year of his age. I purpose not here to speak his eulogy, it has been pronounced.† He has left memorials which speak his praise more eloquently than words. He did not forget his favorite institution in his last will and testament. His donations to the University, at different times, with those in his will, amount to not less than one hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Brown was also the poor man's friend, and no man's enemy. He received liberally from his Creator, and he gave liberally; living as a steward of God's bounty, and in daily recollection of the injunction of his master,—“*Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.*”

In the death of such a man, we mourn not for him; for him “to die was gain.” He had lived beyond that period when life loses most of its charms, and most of our best friends are beckoning us to a better world. But let us honor his memory, as it deserves to be honored, by making such a use of his bounty as will best promote his liberal, pious and benevolent intentions. And, in the view of his example, we would say, to the rich men of our land: Behold what a noble use he made of riches! “Go ye and do likewise.”

*See the valuable “Thoughts on the present Collegiate System in the United States,” by Dr. Wayland, published in 1842.

†By President Wayland, in the Chapel of Brown University, Nov. 3, 1841.

We have thus, my friends, indulged in some recollections of the past, and attempted to present you a passing view of our *Alma Mater*, from her humble beginning, at Warren, to the palmy state in which, with pride and pleasure, we now behold her.

My first duty has been to address you as the *Alumni* of Brown University; but I cannot forget that we are citizens of a common country, whose destiny, for weal or for woe, depends greatly upon educated men. Upon this topic I could say much, but I am compelled to be brief; I should not feel, however, that I had performed my duty, on this occasion, if, on such a subject, I said nothing.

When we perceive the vast influence of mind on mind, how does the spiritual world assert its pre-eminence, and the material sink into a subserviency to the moral and intellectual!

That a republic cannot long exist without knowledge, and virtue, is a truth which has been so often repeated that it falls upon the ear as an old saw, and makes little or no impression, yet it is as true now as at the beginning. Knowledge and virtue! how sad it is that they should not have been always inseparable! And how strange it seems, when our passions and our selfishness are asleep, that *knowledge* should not always ensure *virtue*! We act as if knowledge would ensure virtue, and indulge the Utopian expectation, that when we have provided for the *intellectual* education of the people, we shall then have secured the happiness and prosperity of our republic. Would to God that this was a reasonable expectation, then our duty would be a plain one, and,

comparatively, very easy of performance. But many of us have seen the time when ignorance would have been bliss, in comparison with that knowledge which let loose upon *France* the furies of hell !

Knowledge increases the will, and the passions, and if this will be not directed to good objects, by increasing its power we unchain a whirlwind, which God alone can quell. If we increase the *impulsive* principle, without increasing the *restraining* principle, we might expect [harmony and good government, in society, with as much reason as we might expect that the planets would revolve, in their orbits, when we had destroyed one of the forces which regulate their motion—they would dash against each other, or “flame like comets lawless through the void.”

The great enemy of God and man *KNOWS, believes and trembles.*” Knowledge fills a seraph with love and adoration.

If, therefore, we increase the intellectual power of the community, without a corresponding increase of the moral and restraining power, we produce mischief instead of good.

But how is this moral and restraining power to be increased? I know of but one way, and I do not think that this transcendental age will ever discover a better, and that is *DISCIPLINE*, or, in other words *good government*. Discipline must begin, and that *very early*, in the *family*; it must continue in the *school* and *college*; and, if it has not then accomplished all its work, there must be laws in society for the *lawless*, and *disobedient*. Not laws enacted

merely, but laws *enforced*, and by penalties, sufficient to protect the good, and punish the evil.

Discipline has been considered a virtue in other lands, and in other days, a theme upon which poets have descanted. One of England,* in the last century, in a poem on Education, in the manner of Spenser, begins by an invocation to *Discipline*.

“O goodly *Discipline*! from Heaven ysprung,
Parent of Science, Queen of arts refined!”

And in an address to his mother, in the 4th stanza of the introduction, he says :

And thus, I ween, thus shall I best repay
The valu'd gifts thy careful love bestow'd,
If imitating thee well as I may
I labor to diffuse th'important good,
Till this great truth by all be understood—
“That all the pious duties which we owe
“Our parents, friends, and country, and our God,
“The seeds of ev'ry virtue here below,
“From *discipline alone* and *early culture grow*.”

Another poet, of our father land, thus closes an ode on “Classic Education” :

Thus with EARLY CULTURE blest,
Thus, to early rule inur'd,
Infancy's expanding breast
Glow's with sense and pow'rs matur'd,
Whence, if future merit raise
Private love or public praise,
Thine is all the work—be thine
The glory—*Classic Discipline*.”

Cowper, in “The Task,”† speaking of the neglect of discipline, in the English Universities, which he

*West.

†Book II.

considers as unfavorable to literature and science, as to virtue, says :

“In colleges and halls, in ancient days,
When learning, virtue, piety, and truth
Were precious, and inculcated with care,
There dwelt a sage, called *Discipline*.”

After a description of this sage, he adds :

“But Discipline, a faithful servant long,
Declin’d at length into the vale of years :
A palsy struck his arm ; his sparkling eye
Was quench’d in rheums of age ; his voice, unstrung,
Grew tremulous, and moved derision, more
Than rev’rence, in perverse rebellious youth.
So colleges and halls neglected much
Their good old friend ; and Discipline, at length,
O’erlook’d and unemploy’d, fell sick, and died.
Then study languish’d, emulation slept,
And virtue fled.”

But such sentiments, and such poetry savor quite too much of *common sense* to meet with favor in these days of transcendental genius. We are for the “*largest liberty*.” Our children, we have been taught, have the divinity within them, and are too perfect to be governed ; to attempt it would be to extinguish the light of heaven ! The glorious perfectibility of man is now the favored topic ; and this is to brought about, not by wise laws and good government, but by lecturing and sympathy. And the very hair of the head must be suffered to grow wild and undisciplined, as an emblem of the freedom from all restraint, and the perfectibility which reigns within ! We might laugh at and ridicule such folly, did it not strike a blow at the root of all social or-

der, and destroy the intellect, for all useful purposes, of some of our most talented young men.

And where does public sympathy dwell? With *violated law*, and *dishonored government*? No, alas! but with the criminal, whom it would protect from justice. It reverses the laws of God, and the wisdom of inspiration, and for the sake of a *murderer*, puts the lives of a *community* in jeopardy. Public sympathy dwells with *treason*, which it calls *patriotism*, and educated men, and *magistrates* who are sworn to support the laws, are found to afford protection and countenance to the guilty.*

Are these the evidences of that virtue which is to support our republic, or of those vices which are the forerunners of our destruction? It is the relaxation and destruction of discipline, both private and public, which has filled our land with such monstrous crimes, and promises nothing but anarchy and ruin.†

*See Appendix, Note F.

†The following extract is from the fifth Lecture "on Modern History," by the profound Dr. *Arnold*, late Regius Professor of History in the University of Oxford, whose death has been so much lamented by the wise and learned.

"This inattention to altered circumstances, which would make us be *Guelfs*, in the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries, because the *Guelf* cause had been right in the eleventh or twelfth, is a fault of most universal application in all political questions, and is often most seriously mischievous. It is deeply seated in human nature, being in fact no other than an exemplification of the force of habit. It is like the case of a settler, landing in a country overrun with wood and undrained, and visited therefore by excessive falls of rain. The evil of wet, and damp, and closeness is besetting him on every side; he clears away the woods, and drains his land, and he by doing so, mends both his climate and his own condition. Encouraged by his success he perseveres in his system; clearing a country is, with him, synonymous with making it fertile and habitable; and he levels or rather sets fire to his forests without mercy.—Meanwhile, the tide is turned without his observing it; he has already

If good men, and educated men, do not speedily awake to a sense of our dangers, we have no reason to hope that God will save us, for we shall have proved ourselves unworthy of his favor; having abused, as a nation, his choicest gifts, we must expect to suffer the penalty which he invariably inflicts upon such transgression.

I would also speak, to educated men, of the importance of that *independence of character*, which shall lead them to think, and speak, and act for themselves. It is said, by some who come from lands which we are accustomed to consider as less free than our own, that we are very deficient in this respect, and are extremely cautious how we, publicly, express an opinion which may differ from the opinion of the majority, for the time being. Shame! shame! that this should be so, if it be so, in a land where we so loudly boast of our independence and freedom!

cleared enough, and every additional clearance is a mischief; damp and wet are no longer the evils most to be dreaded, but excessive drought. The rains do not fall in sufficient quantity; the springs become low, the rivers become less and less fitted for navigation. Yet habit blinds him for a long while to the real state of the case; and he continues to encourage a *coming mischief* in his dread of one that is become *obsolete*. We have been long making progress upon our present tack, yet if we do not go about now, we shall run ashore. Consider the popular feeling at this moment against capital punishments, what is it but continuing to burn the woods, when the country actually wants shade and moisture! Year after year, men talked of the severity of the penal code, and struggled against it in vain. The feeling became stronger and stronger, and at last effected all, and more than all, which it at first vainly demanded; yet still, from mere habit, it pursues its course, no longer to the restraining of legal cruelty, but to the injury of *innocence*, and the *encouragement of crime*, and encouraging that worse evil, a *sympathy with wickedness* justly punished, rather than *with the law, whether of God, or man, unjustly violated*."

To men of liberal education, this is doubly disgraceful; they are required to enlighten the ignorant, and those who are out of the way, and not "*follow the multitude to do evil.*" What is the use of their knowledge, if their candle is "*put under a bushel,*" and they will not, or dare not, speak the truth, when the truth is most needed? How can we respect ourselves, or expect that others will respect us, if we submit to be led by the bold and unprincipled demagogue, or to be *brow-beaten into silence?*

There was a time when those, who were the most likely to possess the confidence of the community, were men who scorned to run after public opinion, and who did not hesitate to form and express their own, without waiting to enquire what opinion was likely to be the most popular. They felt the responsibility of their stations, and their talents, and that it was their duty to guide and instruct their fellow citizens. Such was *Washington*, and *Adams*, and *Madison*, and *Jay*, and *Hamilton*, and *Marshall*. These were men who would not have "flattered Neptune for his trident," much less would they have sought for power by deceiving the people, or suffering them to be deceived.

Men of education must not submit to be in bondage to the lowest demagogue, who can command the greatest number of votes. It is a bondage too vile and servile to be endured, by men who have drank at the pure fountains of science, and have freely communed with the illustrious living, and the

illustrious dead. When such men become *demagogues*

They *dive* to sink, and sink to rise no more.

They may eat of the loaves and the fishes, but they no longer eat of the bread of life ; they no longer hold communion with the wise, and the good.

The great duty of educated men, is to speak the truth to the people, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Mr. *Jefferson* said, "Error of opinion may be tolerated where truth is left free to combat it." But where the truth is not left free to combat error, or what is the same thing, when a people are more ready to reward their deceivers, than to listen to those who would tell them the truth, and when men, who know the truth, are unwilling to combat error, what must be the conditon of such a people !

Think not, my friends, that it can be well with us, if we dwell in the midst of such a people ; or that we can long be safe, if we fold our hands, and hold our peace, when *deception*, *servility*, and *corruption*, are polluting the fountains of *truth*, *freedom*, and *virtue*.

There is no discharge from the warfare of the good against the evil, so long as evil exists, until we reach that world, where, if we have done our duty here, we may hope to be received as good and faithful servants.

May we be wise for ourselves, and wise for our country ; and may generations to come have reason to "rise up, and call us blessed."

APPENDIX.

[Note A.—Page 11.]

An account of the first Commencement of Rhode-Island College at Warren, September 7th, 1769, from "The Providence Gazette and Country Journal," "printed by John Carter," September 9, 1769.

PROVIDENCE, September 9.

On Thursday, the 7th of this instant, was celebrated at Warren, the first Commencement in the College of this Colony; when the following young gentlemen commenced Bachelors of Arts, viz: *Joseph Belton, Joseph Eaton, William Rogers, Richard Stites, Charles Thompson, James Mitchel Varnum, and William Williams.*

About ten o'clock, A. M., the gentlemen concerned in conducting the affairs of the College, together with the Candidates, went in procession to the Meeting House.

After they had taken their seats respectively, and the audience were composed, the President introduced the business of the day with prayer; then followed a salutatory oration in Latin, pronounced with much spirit, by Mr. *Stites*, which procured him great applause from the learned part of the assembly. He spoke upon the advantages of Liberty and Learning, and their mutual dependence upon each other; concluding with proper salutations to the Chancellor of the College, Governor of the Colony, &c., particularly expressing the gratitude of all the friends of the College to the Rev. *Morgan Edwards*, who has encountered many difficulties in going to Europe, to collect donations for the Institution, and has lately returned.

To which succeeded a forensic dispute, in English, on the following Thesis, viz: "*The Americans, in their present cir-*

cumstances, cannot, consistent with good policy, affect to become an Independent State." Mr. *Varnum* ingeniously defended it by cogent arguments, handsomely dressed; though he was subtly, but delicately opposed by Mr. *Williams*; both of whom spoke with emphasis and propriety.

As a conclusion to the exercises of the forenoon, the audience were agreeably entertained with an oration on *Benevolence*, by Mr. *Rogers*; in which, among many other pertinent observations, he particularly noticed the necessity which that infant seminary stands in, of the salutary effects of that truly Christian virtue.

At three o'clock, P. M., the audience being convened., a syllogistic dispute was introduced on this Thesis "*Materia cogitare non potest.*" Mr. *Williams* the respondent; Messieurs *Belton*, *Eaton*, *Rogers* and *Varnum* the opponents. In the course of which dispute, the principal arguments on both sides were produced towards settling that critical point.

The degree of Bachelor of Arts was then conferred on the candidates. Then the following gentlemen (graduated in other Colleges) at their own request received the honorary degree of Master in the Arts, viz: Rev. *Edward Upham*, Rev. *Morgan Edwards*, Rev. *Samuel Stillman*, Rev. *H Ezekiah Smith*, Hon *Joseph Wanton*, Jun. Esq., Mr. *Jabez Bowen*, and Mr. *David Howcell*, Professor of Philosophy in said College.

The following gentlemen, being well recommended by the Faculty, for literary merit, had conferred on them the honorary degree of Master in the Arts, viz: Rev. *Abel Morgan*, Rev. *Oliver Hart*, Rev. *David Thomas*, Rev. *Samuel Jones*, Mr. *John Davis*, Mr. *Robert Strettle Jones*, Mr. *John Stites*, Rev. *James Bryson*, Rev. *James Edwards*, Rev. *William Boulton*, Rev. *John Ryland*, Rev. *William Clark*, Rev. *Joshua Toulmin*, and Rev. *Caleb Evans*.

A concise pertinent and solemn charge was then given to the Bachelors by the President, concluding with his last paternal benediction, which naturally introduced the valedictory orator, Mr. *Thompson*, who, after some remarks upon the excellencies of the oratorial art, and expressions of gratitude to the patrons and officers of the College, together with a valediction to them,

and all present, took a most affectionate leave of his classmates. The scene was tender—the subject felt—and the audience affected.

“The President concluded the exercises with prayer. The whole was conducted with a propriety and solemnity suitable to the occasion. The audience (consisting of the principal gentlemen and ladies of this Colony and many from the neighboring governments) though large and crowded, behaved with the utmost decorum.

“Not only the candidates, but even the President, were dressed in American manufactures. Finally be it observed, that *this class are the first sons of that College* which has existed for more than four years; during all which time it labored under great disadvantages, notwithstanding the warm patronage and encouragement of many worthy men, of fortune and benevolence; and it is hoped, from the disposition which many discovered on that day, and other favorable circumstances, that these disadvantages will soon, in part, be happily removed.”

[Note B.—Page 14.]

The following account of the Commencement of 1770, is also taken from the files of the “Providence Gazette and Country Journal.”

“PROVIDENCE, Sept. 8.

“On Wednesday, was celebrated here the second Commencement in Rhode-Island College. The parties concerned met at the Court House about ten o’clock, from whence they proceeded to the Rev. Joseph Snow’s Meeting-house, in the following order: First, the Grammar Scholars, then the under classes, the candidates for degrees, the Bachelors, the Trustees of the College, the Fellows, the Chancellor and Governor of the Colony, and lastly, the President. When they were seated, the President introduced the business of the day by prayer; then followed the Salutatory Oration in Latin, by Mr. Dennis; and a forensic dispute, with which ended the exercises of the forenoon.

“ Those of the afternoon began with an intermediate Oration on Catholicism, pronounced by Mr. Foster ; then followed a syllogistic disputation, in Latin, wherein Mr. Foster was respondent, and Messieurs Nash, Read, and Dennis, opponents. After this, the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on Messieurs John Dennis, Theodore Foster, Samuel Nash, and Seth Read ; and the degree of Master on the Rev. Isaac Eaton, Messieurs William Bowen, Benjamin West, David Williams, Joseph Brown, and Abel Evans ; also on the Rev. Messieurs Hugh Evans, Daniel Turner, Samuel James, Benjamin Beddome, Benjamin Wallin, John Reynolds, and Isaac Woodman. To which succeeded a valedictory Oration by Mr. Read ; and then a charge to the graduates.

“ The business of the day being concluded, and before the assembly broke up, a piece from Homer was pronounced by Master Billy Edwards, one of the Grammar School boys, not nine years old. This, as well as the other performances, gained applause from a polite and crowded audience, and afforded pleasure to the friends of the Institution. But what greatly added to their satisfaction, was an opportunity of observing the forwardness of the College Edifice, the first stone of which was laid not longer since than the latter end of May last, and 'tis expected the roof will be on next month. It is a neat brick building, 150 feet by 46, four stories high, with a projection, in the middle, of 10 feet on each side, containing an area of 63 feet by 30 for a Hall and other public uses. The building will accommodate upwards of a hundred students. Its situation is exceeding pleasant and healthy, being on the summit of a hill, the ascent easy and gradual, commanding an extensive prospect of hills, dales, plains, woods, water, islands, &c. *Who hath despised the day of small things ?* ”

[Note C.—Page 15.]

An account of the Commencement of 1771, from the “ Providence Gazette,” of that year :

“ PROVIDENCE, Sept. 7th.

“ On Wednesday, the 4th instant, was celebrated the anniversary Commencement in this town. At ten o'clock A. M., the

procession was made, in the usual manner, from the College Hall to the Reverend Mr. Snow's Meeting-house. The business of the day was begun by a prayer suitable to the occasion, by the President. An elegant Salutatory Latin Oration, was then pronounced by Mr. Samuel Ward, which justly procured him the applause of the learned part of the assembly: After judiciously pointing out the various causes both of the rise and fall of empires, he made a pathetic application to America, and concluded with the customary salutations. An English Dialogue, delivered with great propriety, by Messieurs Arnold and Brown, and containing some very just and pertinent reflections on the necessity of perpetuating the union betwixt Great Britain and her colonies, was the next entertainment: And an intermediate Oration pronounced with much spirit by Mr. Ustick, on the advantages of peace, which he observed are greater to a powerful nation, than even a successful war, concluded the exercises of the forenoon.

"In the afternoon, was litigated syllogistically this Thesis in Latin, "*Justitia punitiva Dei est attributum.*" Mr. Arnold was the respondent, and Messieurs Brown, Cossit, Farnham and Ustick, the opponents. The principal arguments on both sides of this interesting dispute, were judiciously managed. After which, Mr. Ward vindicated human literature from the false aspersions of those by whom it hath been calumniated, as having a tendency to vitiate the morals of mankind, and disserve the interest of religion; whose arguments on that subject, were retorted with much ingenuity and sarcastic wit, by Mr. Cossit; both of whose observations were accurately examined by Mr. Farnham, who spoke on the subject with precision, and demonstrated the great advantages derived to the cause of religion and virtue, from a suitable education in the liberal arts and sciences.

"The following young gentlemen were admitted to the degree of A. B., Thomas Arnold, Micah Brown, Ranna Cossit, Benjamin Farnham, Thomas Ustick and Samuel Ward.

"Mr. Daniel Hitchcock, of Yale College, received the degree of A. M.

"The honorary degree of A. M., was conferred on the Reverend Francis Pelotts and William Nelson.

"A concise, pertinent charge was then delivered to the graduates, by the President ; in which, besides many useful instructions and cautions, he remarked that this Institution, though liberal and catholic in its foundation and government, despising the contracted views of a party, aiming at the good of mankind in general, and always studious to maintain a good agreement and harmony with others of the like nature, had not been so happy as to pass altogether without censure ; and that, not only from the ignorant and pedantic, but even from some of those whose friendship it has sought, and would highly esteem, could it consistently be obtained. He concluded by requesting their friendship and kind offices to that seminary of learning in which they had received their education ; and with great energy exhorted them, that if they could not, by their joint testimony of the generous, free and impartial manner in which they had been treated in the course of their studies, silence the unreasonable clamors of ignorance and enmity, to give the world the same kind of proof of the usefulness of the Institution, which some of its first sons now do, who fill public stations with honor to themselves, and advantage to mankind.

"A Valedictory Oration, on the antiquity and usefulness of Civil Law, was pronounced by Mr. Arnold, who, in a very agreeable manner, and with great strength of argument, shewed that to render a State prosperous and happy, it was necessary it should be governed by laws founded upon mutual compact.

"The President concluded the exercises with prayer. The whole solemnity was conducted with a decency and decorum, that did honor to the Institution, and gave great satisfaction to a polite and crowded audience.

"In the evening, a sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Gano, from Col. 1, 28, to the general acceptance of a numerous assembly.

"On the following day, the Corporation met, and among other things, ordered their thanks to be given to the committee for erecting the College Edifice, which will be fitted for the reception of students this fall, as also the library and apparatus rooms, for books, &c."

[Note D.—Page 16.]

An account of the Commencement of 1772, from the "Providence Gazette :"

"PROVIDENCE, Sept. 5th.

"On Wednesday, the 2d instant, was celebrated the anniversary Commencement of the College, in this town. The gentlemen concerned in the business of the day, walked in procession, from the College Hall to the Rev. Joseph Snow's Meeting-house. After prayer by the President, a Salutatory Oration was pronounced, in Latin, by Mr. Russell; next the intermediate Oration, by Mr. Hoell, upon History, and then a soliloquy by Mr. Appleton, on Solitude; which was succeeded by an Oration on Agriculture, and the pleasures of a Country Life, by Mr. Harris; and an Oration, the subject, Pride, by Mr. Greene, concluded the exercises of the forenoon.

"Mr. Varnum, one of the candidates for a master's degree, first spoke, in the afternoon, upon the Origin, Nature and Design of Civil Government. Then followed a Latin Exegesis, by Mr. Hoell, in support of this Thesis, "*Miracula extitisse humano testimonio probari potest;*" which was opposed by Messieurs Appleton, Greene, and David. Next, Mr. Stites, another candidate for a master's degree, spoke an Oration, the topic, Female Education: After which the following young gentlemen were admitted to the degree of A. B.: Joseph Appleton, Ebenezer David, Benjamin Greene, Joseph Harris, Elias Hoell, and Joseph Dolbeare Russell.

"Ad eundem, Jonathan Williams, of Harvard College. To the degree of A. M., were admitted Joseph Eaton, William Rogers, Richard Stites, Charles Thompson, James Mitchel Varnum, and William Williams: Ad Eundem, the Rev. Erasmus Kelly, of Philadelphia College; and the Rev. John Ryland, Jun., of Northampton, in England, to the honorary degree of A. M.

"After the degrees were conferred, Mr. David pronounced the Valedictory Oration, upon the incomparable advantages of Religion. The President, then gave the Bachelors a charge, with great solemnity, and concluded with prayer.

"During the exercises, a profound attention was given by a sensible, crowded and polite assembly. The candor and satis-

faction which appeared in every countenance, animated the young performers emulously to contend for that universal applause, which they had the honor to receive."

An account of the Commencement of 1773, from "the Providence Gazette," of Sept. 4th, of that year.

"Wednesday last being the anniversary Commencement of the College in this town, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Corporation, together with a numerous and polite audience, assembled at the Rev. Mr. Snow's Meeting-house, when the President introduced the business of the day by prayer; after which the assembly were addressed in a Latin Salutatory Oration, by Mr. Nash; then followed an English Oration, pronounced by Mr. Foster, upon the discovery, progressive settlement, present state, and future greatness of the American Colonies; which was succeeded by a syllogistic Disputation in Latin, "*An voluntati competit Libertas?*" wherein Mr. Litchfield was the respondent, and Messieurs Drown, Padelford and Tillinghast, the opponents; after this, Mr. Tillinghast delivered an English Oration on Politeness, which finished the exercises of the forenoon.—Those of the afternoon, began with an English Oration upon Civil Liberty, by Mr. Dennis. The degree of Bachelor of Arts was then conferred on the following young gentlemen, viz: Messieurs *Solomon Drown, Joseph Litchfield, Jacob Nash, Philip Padelford, and Henry H. Tillinghast*; and the degree of Master of Arts, on Messieurs *John Dennis, Theodore Foster, Samuel Nash, and Seth Read*; also on Doctor *Thomas Eyres*, Secretary of the College, and late of Yale College: To which succeeded a Valedictory Oration, pronounced by Mr. *Drown*, and then a most solemn and pathetic Charge, by the President, to the Graduates.

"The young gentlemen performed their respective parts with great propriety, which justly procured them the universal applause of a judicious and candid audience.

"Afterwards the honorary degree of Master of Arts was conferred on several gentlemen in England."

An account of the Commencement of 1774, from the "Providence Gazette," of that year :

"PROVIDENCE, Sept 10.

"Wednesday last being the anniversary Commencement of the College in this town, the Honourable the Governor of the Colony, escorted by the Company of Cadets, under the command of Col. NIGHTINGALE, preceded the usual Procession, from the College Hall to the Rev. Mr. Snow's Meeting-house. After the President had introduced the business of the day by prayer, Mr. *Jones* pronounced the Salutatory Oration in Latin, upon the superior advantages which the moderns enjoy above the ancients, for good public speaking ; after which Mr. *Foster* spoke in support of this Thesis, "Theatrical exhibitions corrupt the morals of mankind, and are prejudicial to the State;" which was opposed by Mr. *Penniman*. To this disputation, succeeded an Oration, exposing the vulgar notions of Apparitions, &c., spoken by Mr. *Mann*. An Oration upon the necessity and great advantages of cultivating our own Language, spoken by Mr. *Dorrance*, concluded the exercises of the forenoon. A Syllogistic dispute, "*An dictamina Conscientiæ sunt semper obtemperanda?*" introduced the exercises of the afternoon. The Thesis, was defended by Mr. *Dorrance* ; the opponents were Messieurs *Binney*, *Foster*, *Jones*, and *Penniman* ; after which Mr. *Ward*, one of the candidates for Master's degree, pronounced an oration upon *Patriotism*, in which were contained many judicious observations upon the present political circumstances of the American Colonies. The degree of Bachelor in Arts, was then conferred upon Messieurs *Barnabas Binney*, *John Dorrance*, *Dwight Foster*, *Timothy Jones*, *Jacob Mann* and *Elias Penniman*. The degree of Master in Arts was conferred on Messieurs *Thomas Arnold*, *Ran-na Cosset*, *Benjamin Farnham*, *Thomas Ustick*, and *Samuel Ward*, Alumni of the College. The Hon. *Joshua Babcock*, of Yale College, the Rev. *Isaac Skillman*, Mr. *Benjamin Steele*, of Nassau Hall College, and Mr. *John White*, Jun., of Harvard College, were also admitted to the degree of Master in Arts in this College. The Rev. *David Jones*, Rev. *William Vanhorn*, and Mr. *William Tillinghast*, were admitted to the honorary degree of Master in Arts. The President then addressed the

Bachelors with a concise and pertinent Charge, to which succeeded the Valedictory Oration, by Mr. *Binney*, being a plea for Religious Liberty, corroborated by ecclesiastical History; after which, the President concluded the exercises of the day, by prayer.

"The various subjects were managed with great precision, and the young gentlemen delivered their respective parts with that dignity and propriety, which acquired them the applause of a very numerous, judicious and polite assembly, who gave their attention with the greatest candor and decorum. The Company of Cadets, in uniforms, made an elegant and truly military appearance, and both in the procession and manœuvres, which they performed on the College Green, procured universal approbation, and convinced the spectators, that Americans are no less capable of military discipline, than Europeans. *Thomas Arnold*, Esq., was elected a member of the Faculty, [the Fellowship,] and Messieurs *John Brown* and *John Jenckes*, were chosen Trustees of the College."

We add to this Note, an account, taken from the files of the "Providence Gazette," of the Commencement of 1776, which was the first Commencement held in the First Baptist Meeting-house; and also an account of the Commencements of 1782, '83 and 1786. There was no Commencement in 1775, '77, '78, '79, '80, nor in 1781, and none from 1783, until 1786. The Commencement of 1786, was the first after the College had again begun to live and recover from the desolations of the Revolutionary War. At this Commencement, graduated *Nicholas Brown*, then Junior, to whose subsequent munificence, the University is so much indebted.

An account of the Commencement of 1776.

"PROVIDENCE, Sept. 7.

"On Wednesday last, was celebrated the public anniversary Commencement of the College, in this town; the usual procession was from the College to the new Baptist Meeting-house. The exercises of the day, being introduced by a prayer by the

President, were the following, viz : in the forenoon a Latin Salutatory Oration, by Mr. *Mann*, upon the calamities of war ; an English Oration, by Mr. *Thayer*, upon the advantages of Literature ; and another English Oration by Mr. *Cummings*, satirising Toryism and Negro Slavery.

" In the afternoon, a Syllogistic Dispute by Messieurs *Thayer* and *Cummings*, "*An leges divinæ aliquid ultra vires humanas ab hominibus exigunt ?*" An English Oration by Mr. *Coe*, upon the great importance and advantages resulting to the State, as well as individuals, from a good education of youth of both sexes ; an Oration attempted in Hebrew, according to the modern pronunciation, without the vowel points, upon the advantages of the study of the languages, by Mr. *Cummings* ; after which the following young Gentlemen were admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts, viz : *Curtis Coe*, *Amasa Cooke*, *Abraham Cummings*, *Ebenezer Dutch*, *William Edwards*, *Daniel Gano*, *John Hart*, *John Preston Mann*, and *Jabez Thayer*.

" The Rev. *Joseph Appleton*, of Brookfield, and Mr. *Joseph Russell*, Jun., of this Town, Alumni of the College, were admitted to the degree of Master of Arts, also Major *John Parke*, Master of Arts, of the College in Philadelphia, was admitted "*ad eundem*." The degree of Master of Arts was also conferred upon the Honorable *Nathaniel Greene*, Major General in the Continental Army.

" After a pertinent and solemn Charge, delivered to the Bachelors by the President, the Valedictory Oration was spoken by Mr. *Dutch*, upon Liberty, with some anecdotes from the present times.

" The young Gentlemen performed their respective parts with much propriety, and to the entertainment and satisfaction of a numerous and polite assembly, who attended with the utmost decorum through the whole.

" The Honorable Corporation, on the next day, it being their triennial election, chose the following officers, viz : The Honorable *Stephen Hopkins*, Esq., Chancellor, *John Brown*, Esq., Treasurer, *Thomas Arnold*, Esq., Secretary, in the room of Dr. *Thomas Eyres*, who declined serving, any longer, in that office ; and *Joseph Clarke*, Esq., *John Cole*, Esq., Col. *Joseph Nightin-*

gale, Col. *William Russell* and Mr. *Daniel Cahoon*, were chosen Trustees of the College."

An account of the Commencement of 1782, from the "Providence Gazette."

"PROVIDENCE, Sept. 7.

"It is with pleasure we inform the public that the affairs of the College in this town, which have been greatly interrupted by our public difficulties, were happily revived on Wednesday last, the day of our anniversary Commencement, in a full meeting of the gentlemen of the Corporation.

"Early in the morning of that day, the gentlemen of the Fellowship met in the College Hall, to examine the candidates for the first Degree, who, it appeared, had prosecuted their course of education, amidst all the embarrassments under which the College had labored, and therefore were entitled to its honors.

"At ten o'clock, the Corporation entered upon the business of the Institution at large. During their session, Dr. *Benjamin Waterhouse*, was elected a Fellow; and *John Innes Clark*, *John Smith*, *Esek Hopkins*, *Rufus Hopkins*, *Ebenezer Thompson*, Esquires, the Rev. *Enos Hitchcock*, and Capt. *Thomas Jenkins*, Trustees; as many of whom as could be properly notified of their election appeared, qualified, and took their places.

"The deplorable situation of the Seminary was *particularly* taken into consideration; whereupon, it was resolved, that the edifice, which had been long occupied as a barrack and hospital by the American and French troops, should be directly repaired; and ample provision was made for the immediate instruction of youth in all the branches of polite and useful Literature.

"The Reverend President conferred the degree of Bachelor in the Arts, on the following young gentlemen, viz: *Obadiah Brown*, *Joseph Jenckes*, *Alexander Jones*, and *William McClellan*.

"*John Morley Greene*, *Samuel Snow*, and *Levi Wheaton*, students in the Junior Class, at the time College exercises were stopped, by the peculiar calamities of our country, upon their solicitation, and due enquiry into their characters and present standing, were admitted to the like honor.

“The following gentlemen, *Alumni* of the College, upon their application, were admitted to the degree of Master in the Arts, viz : *Pardon Bowen*, *Andrew Law*, and *Robert Rogers*, of 1775,—*Curtis Coe*, *Thomas Gair*, *John Preston Mann*, and *Enoch Pond*, of 1776.”

An account of the Commencement of 1783.

“PROVIDENCE, Sept. 6.

“Wednesday last, being the anniversaay Commencement of the College in this town, the gentlemen of the Corporation met at nine o'clock, A. M., in the College Hall ; from whence they walked in procession to the Meeting House, preceded by the students in the College, and the candidates for their first degree. As soon as the Corporation had taken their seats, the audience were entertained with an anthem ; after which, the President made a prayer, well adapted to the occasion. The candidates then proceeded to perform their respective parts, which consisted of several Orations on different subjects, and a forensic disputation. An Oration was likewise delivered by Dr. *James Mann*, of Harvard College. The young gentlemen acquitted themselves with great honor, while they commanded the attention, and received the approbation, of a numerous, polite, and most brilliant assembly.

“The degree of Bachelor in the Arts, was conferred on *Jacob Campbell*, *George Tillinghast*, *John Tillinghast*, *Othniel Tyler* and *William Wilkinson* ; and an honorary degree on *Luther Harris*. *Francis Quarles*, *Alumnus* of the College, was admitted to the degree of Master in the Arts. *Benjamin Bourne*, Esq., Mr. *Thomas Fitch Oliver*, and Dr. *James Mann*, *Alumni* of Harvard College, were admitted *ad eundem*.

“The music, at proper intervals through the day, was a great addition to the entertainment, and reflected much credit on the performers.

“The Consul-General of France, and the Count *dal Verme* honored the Corporation with their company on this occasion.

“In the evening, an animating Sermon was preached by the Rev. *Samuel Stillman*, of Boston, from St. Luke, xv. 32 :—
“It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad ; for this

thy brother was dead and is alive again ; and was lost, and is found.

“ We are happy to inform the public, that the Honorable the Corporation of the College, have raised a considerable sum of money, in order to procure, without delay, a complete philosophical apparatus, and a large addition to their Library.

“ It cannot but be pleasing to the friends of Literature in general, and to the inhabitants of this State in particular, to see this young Seminary thus emerging from its ruins, into respectability and importance.”

An account of the Commencement of 1786 :

PROVIDENCE, Sept. 9.

“ Wednesday last being the anniversary Commencement of the College in this Town, the gentlemen of the Corporation, &c., met at the College Hall, at nine o'clock, A. M. At ten o'clock, they went in procession to the Baptist Meeting House, in the following order, viz :

“ The United Company of the Train of Artillery, under arms, in complete uniform, commanded by Col Tillinghast, with music ; the Students in College, and candidates for their second degree ; Literary Gentlemen ; the Corporation, closed by the President and Vice President.

“ After a well adapted prayer, by the Rev. President Manning, an anthem was performed by a choir of singers, from all the societies in Town. The performances of the young gentlemen were introduced by a Salutatory Oration, in Latin, by Mr. *James Manning* ; then followed an Oration, upon the Study of History, by Mr. *Oliver Bowen* : To which succeeded a dialogue upon the four Elements, between Messieurs *Benjamin Bowen Carter*, *Joseph Nason*, *Jairus Hall*, and *Robert Annan*. An Oration on the advantages of Commerce, by Mr. *Nicholas Brown, Jr.*, closed the exercises of the forenoon.

“ In the afternoon, the Exercises were opened by an Oration upon the Rise and Progress of Science, by *Othniel Tyler, A. M.* ; then followed a dispute, upon this question, “ *Whether it would not have been better for America to have remained dependent on Great Britain ?*” between Messieurs *Benjamin Woods*,

Edmund Freeman, Jonathan Gould, and Timothy Green; to which succeeded an Oration, consisting of Reflections upon Governments, and a tribute to the memory of our late departed friend, *General Greene*, by *George Tillinghast, A. M.*

"The degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on the following young gentlemen, viz :

"*Robert Annan, William Annan, Oliver Bowen, Nicholas Brown, Jun., Benjamin Bowen Carter, Edmund Freeman, Jonathan Gould, Timothy Green, Jairus Hall, Lemuel Kollock, James Manning, Joseph Mason, Preserved Smith, Benjamin Woods, and Amos Wood.*

"And the Degree of Master of Arts was conferred on the following young gentlemen, viz :

"*George Tillinghast, Othniel Tyler, John Tillinghast, Timothy Jones, Joseph Jenckes, Samuel Snow, Samuel Sampson, and William Wilkinson.*

"The honorary degree of Master of Arts, was conferred on the following gentlemen, viz :

"Rev. *Benjamin Foster*, of Newport, Rhode-Island ; Rev. *James Newton*, of Bristol, Great Britain ; Rev. *Joseph Thomas*, of Wales, Great Britain ; Rev. *Burgess Alison*, of New Jersey ; Rev. *Peter Wilson*, of New Jersey ; Dr. *Enoch Edwards*, of Pennsylvania.

"The degree of Doctor of Laws, was conferred on the Hon. *Granville Sharpe, Esq.*, of London ; and of Doctor of Divinity, on the Rev. *Samuel Jones*, of Pennsylvania.

"After which was delivered the Valedictory Oration, by Mr. *Lemuel Kollock.*

"N. B. A syllogistic dispute between Messieurs *Amos Wood, Preserved Smith* and *William Annan*, was omitted for want of time.

"The several young gentlemen performed their parts to very general satisfaction, and in such a manner, as, while it reflected honor on their instructors, convinced all present that they had attended to their studies, and affords a happy presage of their future usefulness.

"A very numerous, and respectable audience attended the exercises, and the greatest possible order was conspicuous through the whole."

[Note E.—Page 23.]

An account of so much of the Commencement of 1791, from the "Providence Gazette," as was omitted in the "Boston Centinel :"

"The following exercises were performed, after an introductory prayer by the Rev. Dr. *Stillman* :

1. Salutory Oration—The History of Eloquence—by *William Hunter*.
2. A Dissertation—Comparison of Ancient and Modern Literature—by *Samuel White Baylies*.
3. An English Oration—On the causes of the difference of the moral faculty—by *George Rawson Burrill*.
4. A Dissertation on Civil Liberty—by *James Ellis*.
5. A Disputation, on the following Question : "Is Fashion, every thing considered, beneficial to Mankind?"—by *Elisha Fairbanks* and *John Morse*.
6. An Oration on Villany, considered as the source of Empire—by *James Brown Mason*.
7. A Greek Oration—A comparison of Demosthenes and Cicero—by *Chiron Penniman*.
8. An Oration—On the influence of the fine Arts on Society—by *Samuel King*.

"This concluded the exercises of the forenoon. The procession then returned to the Chancellor's house. At 3 o'clock, P. M., they returned to the Meeting-house.

"In the afternoon, were the following exhibitions, by candidates for the Master's Degree.

1. An Oration, on the difference between Law and Constitution—by *James Burrill*.
2. An Oration, on the Death of the Rev. President Manning—by *Simcon Doggett*.
3. An Oration—past, present, and future prospects of America—by *Jabez Bowen*.
4. An Oration, on the rights of Brutes—by *Herman Daggett*.
5. An Oration, on the difference in the spirit of heroism, in the different periods of Society—by *Josias Lyndon Arnold*.

"At the late meeting of the Corporation of Rhode-Island College, Mr. *Nicholas Brown*, was elected a Trustee, in the place of *Nicholas Brown*, Esq., deceased : Mr. *John Francis*, was elected a Trustee, in the place of *John Jenckes*, Esq., deceased ; and Mr. *John Mason*, was elected a Trustee, in the place of Col. *Sylvester Child*, resigned.

"Mr. *Asa Messer*, of Haverhill, a Graduate of the College, was elected a Tutor.

[Note F.—Page 43.]

Treason, or, as it is sometimes called, *High Treason*, to distinguish it from *Petit Treason*, is the greatest crime known to the laws, or which can be committed against society. This crime is a concentration of all crimes which affect the rights of persons and property—Murder, Rape, Robbery, Arson, &c. The levying war against the State, is an attack upon the lives, persons, and property of all, directly or indirectly ; these cannot be safe but under the guardianship of law, and government, which it is the object of Treason to prostrate and destroy. A crime, so heinous in its nature, is punishable by the laws of the United States, and most of the States, with death. By the laws of Rhode-Island, murder is punishable with death ; treason, by imprisonment in the State Prison for life.

The Constitution of the United States, for the security of the States, and to secure the punishment of those who may be "*charged in any State with TREASON, felony, or other crime,*" and who shall flee from justice, contains the following provision : Article, 4. sec. 2. "A person charged in any State with *treason, felony, or other crime*, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another State, *shall*, on demand of the *executive authority of the State from which he fled*, be delivered up, to be removed to the *State having jurisdiction of the crime.*"

By the 6th Article, of the Constitution of the United States, it is provided, "that all *executive* and judicial officers, both of the United States, and of *the several States*, shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution."

But what are *Oaths*, or *Constitutions*, when they seek to obstruct the madness of party, or to set bounds to the all-absorbing selfishness of unprincipled ambition ?

This is the downward road which has led so many Republics to anarchy and despotism. Civil wars are, proverbially, ferocious and destructive. From the horrors and desolations of anarchy, despotism itself has often been hailed as a deliverer.

The voice of Washington, is even now calling to us, as from the grave, in the language of warning and entreaty. Every page of his farewell address is full of wisdom and instruction ; it cannot be too often read or referred to, "to moderate the fury of



party spirit, and guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism."

"Liberty, (said he,) is indeed little else than a name where the *government is too feeble* to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the *laws*, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of *person and property*."

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF BROWN UNIVERSITY.

This Anniversary was celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1843. The Association convened at the new Chapel, (Manning Hall,) whence they marched, in procession, to the First Baptist Meeting house, where the exercises, on the occasion, were performed in the following order, viz : 1. Music. 2. Prayer, by the Rev. James Thompson, of the Class of 1799.* 3. Address by John Pitman. 4. Ancient version of the One Hundreth Psalm. 5. Benediction.

After the Exercises at the Meeting-house were concluded, the Association repaired to Common's Hall, where they partook of a dinner prepared by the Steward, Lemuel H. Elliott, Esq. The Hon. Tristram Burges, the President of the Association, presided over the festivities of the occasion. At the table, various appropriate sentiments were given; a spirited song, written by a member of the Class of 1832, and embodying various reminiscences of college life was sung; and addresses were made by the Hon. Tristram Burges, President Wayland, Hon. Asher Robbins, William Wilkinson, Esq., William L. Stone, Esq., Hon. Joseph L. Tillinghast, Thomas M. Burgess, Esq., the Mayor of the city of Providence, Timothy G. Coffin, Esq., and others.

* The Rev. Elisha Fisk was, in the first instance, invited to perform the duty of Chaplain, but owing to some parochial engagements, he was unable to accept the invitation with which he was honored. Mr. Fisk graduated in the year 1795, and was a Tutor in College three years, from 1796 to 1799. He is now, and for many years has been, a highly respectable Congregational clergyman in Wrentham, Massachusetts.